

*Oral Questions*

I have a question for the Prime Minister. Canadian consumers are being hit by a \$340 increase per family for energy costs, for the cost of heating their homes and being able to drive their cars next year as a result of the Prime Minister's budget. Would the Prime Minister consider introducing a cost of living tax credit to help these middle and low-income Canadian consumers?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The hon. member thinks the consumer is being asked to pay prices which are too high. Is he then siding with the federal government against the producing provinces and saying that, as Premier Lougheed is asking for even higher prices, I should meet him, as the hon. member suggests, and turn down his requests for higher prices? This is the kind of guidance I am asking for from the hon. member.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF FISHERIES OF NOVA SCOTIA

**Madam Speaker:** I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery today of the Hon. Edmond Morris, Minister of Fisheries of Nova Scotia.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

**Madam Speaker:** I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery today of the President of the League of Red Cross Societies, Mr. Justice A. F. Adefarasin.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## THE CONSTITUTION

## PATRIATION—REPORTED COMMUNICATIONS WITH UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Prime Minister. I would like to ask him to confirm reports emanating from both London and from officials in Ottawa today that the government House leader has been in touch with his counterpart in the United Kingdom, Mr. Norman St. John-Stevas, concerning a scaling down of the Canadian government's proposals so that patriation could take place as quickly as possible, but that other constitutional amendments should be made in Canada. Would the Prime Minister comment on those reports?

**Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, I should inform the House that it is not the usual custom to divulge private conversations which take place between individuals, but I can

confirm that a call was received earlier this week from the Lord Privy Seal by the President of the Privy Council which arose as a result of somewhat alarmist reports in the British press in connection with the progress of the constitutional resolution in the House of Commons. The Lord Privy Seal wanted some clarification from the President of the Privy Council.

**Miss MacDonald:** It is interesting to note that in connection with a matter as important and as crucial as this to the country the Prime Minister would not take the opportunity to respond to my question.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## PATRIATION—REPORTED VIEW OF UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since the exchange in the House yesterday *The Times* reporter has twice reiterated that two British cabinet ministers have informed him that the position of the United Kingdom government is that they would quickly pass a request for patriation but that other constitutional amendments should be straightened out here in Canada. In other words, there was a very clear indication that Canada is a grown up, mature and independent country and should be able to handle its problems on its own rather than asking another country to resolve them.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss MacDonald:** I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he would confirm that this is the gist of the message which he was asked to convey to Canada's government, or if perhaps this was the message which he conveniently forgot on the aircraft coming home, as other Liberal cabinet ministers have been known to do in the past?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member opposite has had the privilege of sitting in a cabinet and she knows that a variety of views are found around the cabinet table—and perhaps sometimes they are even carried out afterwards. There was a press report this morning in *The Globe and Mail* which quoted the official spokesman for the British government as saying:

We will put legislation before Parliament when the Canadian government requests us to do so. There has been no change in our position for months.

That is the message we brought back and it was the message which we were given.